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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

25X1A

INTELOFAX 25

COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 26 June 1951

SUBJECT Army Transportation

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE
ACQUIREDNO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

25X1A

DATE OF
INFO.SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1X

1. [REDACTED]

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2. The Bulgarian Army uses motor vehicles, horse drawn carts, and, in some instances, pack horses for its transportation. The motor vehicles are mainly new Russian ZIS, Molotov or GAZ types. There are also some new Czechoslovak Skoda cars. The older vehicles are of German manufacture, mainly Opel Blits, BMW, or Mercedes. The army has a total of approximately 6,000 vehicles. In addition to these, in time of mobilization or of war, there are plans for requisitioning all civilian cars belonging to various cooperatives, bureaus and private citizens.
3. All civilian vehicles in the country come under the control of the Ministry of Transport through the Directorate of Government Automobile Transportation (DAP), with headquarters in Sofia and branches in the various departmental cities. Bulgaria has about 15,000 trucks in addition to those owned by the army. A section of the Special Army Motorized Truck Regiment keeps a log of all civilian vehicles, and, in case of mobilization, it is from this section that owners of the civilian vehicles will receive notification of requisition.
4. The lack of spare parts for motor vehicles is critical. Sometimes a car will be out of use for months waiting for a spare part; the government garages often cannibalize for other cars.
5. The army school for drivers and mechanics is run by the Special Motorized Truck Regiment. In addition each motorized regiment has its own short course school to train drivers and mechanics; and in 1949 a government school for drivers was started in Sofia, on the corner of Tsar Simeon and Lomska Streets.
6. A major part of the regimental and divisional supply train is horse drawn. In peacetime the regiments have a very small number of specially made military vehicles, and in case of war they count upon requisitioning of peasants' horse drawn carts. Experience in past wars has shown that these peasants' carts are not suited to military purposes as they are not strong nor well kept up, and the harnesses are often faulty.

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Class. Changed To: TS S (6)

Auth.: HR 70-2

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7. For heavy artillery pieces the army horses of Benat and Hungarian extraction are powerful enough, but there are not enough of these horses for all artillery units. The local Bulgarian-bred horses are not strong enough to work with artillery and are often unable to pull ordinary supply carts, because they are generally underfed.